



## Frommer bill rakes in \$1 billion for California

*Crackdown on illegal tax shelters creates huge windfall for state's coffers.*

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) and state Senator Gilbert Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) announced this month that a tough new law to crack down on corporate tax cheaters has raked in \$1.3 billion for the state of California, more than 10 times initial expectations.

*“By combining the nation’s toughest penalties for illegal tax shelters with an amnesty program, California has found the right carrot and stick to force rich scofflaws to pay taxes they owe,” Frommer said*

The California Franchise Tax Board estimates that illegal tax shelters cost the state between \$600 million and \$1 billion every year. Under Frommer’s and Cedillo’s new law, AB 1601 and SB 614, California significantly stiffened penalties for tax cheats who use illegal tax shelters to skirt their responsibilities. In addition, the bill set up a voluntary amnesty program. By the program’s deadline of April 15, 864 taxpayers – 296

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## Assembly committees pass prescription drug bills

*Bill to aid consumers in purchasing safe, affordable medications passes to Assembly Floor.*

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – Two bills by Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) that would enable consumers to purchase safe, more affordable prescription drugs from state-certified Canadian pharmacies and allow California’s state agencies to increase their negotiating power with prescription drug companies were passed out of Assembly committees this month.

“The Legislature has a chance to provide much-needed relief to Californians who are struggling to obtain the prescription drugs they need because of skyrocketing costs,” Frommer said. “Americans are funding 1/3 of the research and development of lifesaving drugs that we can’t afford to buy when we’re sick.”



Assembly Bill 1957, which would require the Department of Health Services to establish a Web site providing price comparisons between American and Canadian

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corporations and 568 individuals – each handed over an average of \$1.15 million in money owed to the state. ♦

## UPCOMING EVENTS 43<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

### May 11

Higher Education Summit

Glendale Community College, 1500 N. Verdugo Road

### June 5

Behind the Scenes: Burbank Block Party

Johnny Carson Park, 400 South Bob Hope Drive

### Thursdays, 9:30 p.m.

“Capitol Connection with Assemblyman Dario Frommer”

Charter Communications Channel 25

## CONTACT US

### District Office

620 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 403

Glendale, California 91203

(818) 240-6330

(818) 240-4632 (FAX)

### Capitol Office

PO Box 942849

Sacramento, California 94249-0043

(916) 319-2043

(916) 319-2143 (FAX)

### Online

[Http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a43/](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a43/)

[Assemblymember.Frommer@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Frommer@assembly.ca.gov)

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pharmaceutical prices and links to Canadian pharmacies certified by the state for safety, access and affordability. Assembly Bill 1958 would allow California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) to join with other state agencies, HMOs and small businesses to negotiate for lower prices by buying prescription drugs in bulk. Both bills move to the Assembly Floor for a vote. ♦

## Educators, Scott join Frommer for K-12 Summit

*State Superintendent Jack O'Connell speaks to teachers, students, parents and administrators regarding the state of California's education system.*



**(BURBANK, CA)** – Parents, teachers, administrators and students of the Glendale, Burbank and Los Angeles unified school districts joined state Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) and Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) this month to discuss pressing issues that now face California's education system.

The summit featured keynote speaker Jack O'Connell, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition, representatives from local school boards, school districts, teacher associations, parent-teacher associations, the student body and other groups gave policy makers a first-hand perspective on impending budget cuts and other issues they face today.

“It's important for us to listen to people on the front lines of the education system to see what works and what doesn't,” Frommer said. “Sometimes people making policy up in Sacramento haven't been in a classroom in a long time, so it is invaluable for us to hear from our community about what programs work well, and for what programs we might need to implement changes.” ♦